



BOY COMICS

10¢

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LEV GLEASON, PUBLISHER CHARLES BIRO AND BOB WOOD, EDITORS

CRIMEBUSTER
in **2**
COMPLETE FEATURE-LENGTH STORIES

LEV GLEASON
PUBLISHER
PUBLICATIONS

STEAKS
AND
CHOPS



LOOK OUT, ROCKY! IT'S HIM! HE HEARD EVERYTHING WE SAID!

YOU DUMB FRILL! I TOLD YOU HE WAS A COPPER! I'LL GET HIM FIRST, THE SPYING R...

SURE, I'M A COP, BUT I DON'T WANT TO KILL YOU, ROCKY, SO DON'T REACH FOR YOUR GUN!

I WANTED TO LOCK YOU UP IN ONE PIECE, BUT IF THIS IS HOW YOU WANT IT, OKAY!

CHARLES BIRO



WEB COMIC UNIVERSE.COM

CRIMEBUSTER

Story by
CHARLES BIRO

YOU'VE NO DOUBT HEARD THE REMARK, "SEE YOURSELF AS OTHERS SEE YOU". DIRK GABOT HAD, BUT HE NEVER FELT ITS SIGNIFICANCE. GABOT IS THE INSTRUMENT IN THIS STORY BY WHICH I TRY TO ILLUSTRATE THE STUPIDITY OF CONCEPT! THIS IS A PORTRAIT OF A POWER-DRUNK EGOMANIAC! "WHO'S DRUNK WITH POWER?" SAYS HE. "YOU'RE FIRED! NOBODY TELLS ME WHAT TO DO!" HE'S THE SUPER-BOY ALMIGHTY! ACCORDING TO HIM, HE'S PERFECT! NO ONE GETS ANY CREDIT FOR HIS RISE TO THE TOP! THE FACT THAT HE WAS BORN WITH AN APPEALING SINGING VOICE WAS NOT SOMETHING TO BE GRATEFUL FOR, BUT IN HIS SENSE AN AGGRESSIVE WEAPON WHICH HE USED TO BLAST HIS WAY TO SUCCESS! NEVER A GRATEFUL GESTURE, NOT EVEN A "THANKS" TO THE MANY WHO HELPED HIM ARRIVE! YOU'LL BE GLAD TO SEE HIM GET HIS LUMPS, WHEN HE MEETS SOMEONE WHO JUST "DON'T SCARE EASY!"

Charles Biro



drawn by
NEWMAN MAURER

HERE HE COMES NOW, FELLERS! C'MON, LET'S GANG UP ON HIM—HE MAY TRY TO WIGGLE OUT OF IT!

YEAH, IT'S CRIMEBUSTER, ALL RIGHT! LET'S GET HOLD OF HIM BEFORE HE HAS A CHANCE TO DUCK!

OH, BOY, OH, BOY, OH, BOY!

HOTEL GAYFORD
1234 567

YOU'RE NOT GETTING AWAY THIS TIME, C.B.!

G'WAN, I ASKED HIM FIRST!

SIGN MINE FIRST, CRIMEBUSTER?

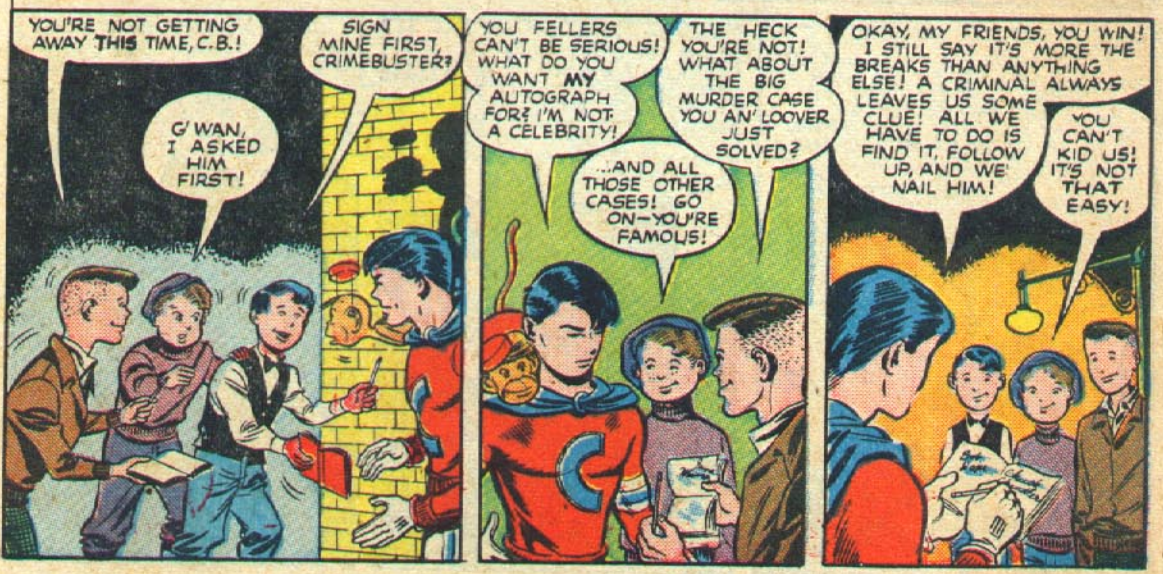
YOU FELLERS CAN'T BE SERIOUS! WHAT DO YOU WANT MY AUTOGRAPH FOR? I'M NOT A CELEBRITY!

...AND ALL THOSE OTHER CASES! GO ON—YOU'RE FAMOUS!

THE HECK YOU'RE NOT! WHAT ABOUT THE BIG MURDER CASE YOU AN' LOOVER JUST SOLVED?

OKAY, MY FRIENDS, YOU WIN! I STILL SAY IT'S MORE THE BREAKS THAN ANYTHING ELSE! A CRIMINAL ALWAYS LEAVES US SOME CLUE! ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS FIND IT, FOLLOW UP, AND WE'LL NAIL HIM!

YOU CAN'T KID US! IT'S NOT THAT EASY!



HOW ABOUT A PAW PRINT OF SOUEEKS? I CAN MAKE A BLOT OF INK FOR HIM TO DIP HIS PAW IN! PLEASE, C.B.!

SURE, IF IT'S OKAY WITH HIM, BUT MAYBE ON SECOND THOUGHT YOU BETTER NOT! HE MIGHT FORGET AND LICK HIS FINGERS! THE INK MIGHT MAKE HIM SICK!

HEY, YOU'VE REALLY COLLECTED SOME BIG NAMES—CARY RADFORD, TODDLES REESE, SANDY TEMPLE...AND HEY, HOW'D YOU EVER GET DIRK GABOT'S AUTOGRAPH!

AW, I DIDN'T GET THAT ONE! THIS BOOK USED TO BELONG TO MY BIG BROTHER! HE COLLECTED A LOT OF NAMES! HE THINKS IT'S KID STUFF NOW, SO HE GAVE ME HIS BOOK!

OH, THAT EXPLAINS IT! I KNEW YOU COULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN IT YOURSELF! DIRK GABOT WAS A CELEBRITY WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE, AND CHASING AFTER AUTOGRAPHS—JUST LIKE YOU!

WHO WAS THIS DIRK? WHAT WAS HIS RACKET? I NEVER HEARD OF HIM!

THAT DOESN'T SURPRISE ME—NOT MANY PEOPLE REMEMBER GABOT NOW, BUT THERE WAS A TIME WHEN HE WAS THE BIGGEST THING IN HOLLYWOOD! FOR A WHILE HE WAS SINATRA, CLARK GABLE AND GOLDWYN, ALL ROLLED UP IN ONE!

HE HAD EVERYTHING—TALENT, SUCCESS, PUBLIC ACCLAIM, AND A VOICE! I'VE NEVER SINCE HEARD A VOICE LIKE IT! ONE DAY HE WAS ON TOP OF THE WORLD—AND THE NEXT DAY HE WAS ON TOP OF THE JUNK PILE!

THE KEY TO HIS SUCCESS WAS A NATURAL GIFT—HIS VOICE, BUT HE THOUGHT HE WAS BIGGER THAN THE TALENT HE POSSESSED! HIS LIFE IS THE PERFECT STORY OF WHAT HAPPENS TO A PERSON WHO ACHIEVES FAME THROUGH A HEAVENLY GIFT—AND THEN BECOMES SUCH AN EGOMANIAC THAT HE THINKS THE WORLD IS ALL HIS, AND THE OTHERS ON IT ARE HIS SLAVES!

GEE, TELL US MORE ABOUT HIM, CRIMEBUSTER!

IT'S TOO LONG A YARN, FELLOWS! WE COULDN'T STAND AROUND HERE THAT LONG! LOOK, HERE COMES LORNA TAYLOR! IT'S A GOOD CHANCE TO GET HER AUTOGRAPH!

THE HECK WITH HER! WE'D RATHER HEAR YOU TELL A STORY!

I KNOW A PLACE WE CAN GO! KELLEY'S GARAGE, RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER! I WASH CARS THERE ON WEEKENDS! KELLY WON'T MIND IF WE HANG OUT THERE!

IT'S OKAY WITH ME, IF YOU'RE SURE IT'S OKAY WITH YOUR BOSS!



HEY, GUYS—C'MON OVER TO KELLEY'S! CRIMEBUSTER'S GONNA TELL US A STORY!

HUH? O'BOY! EXCUSE ME, MISS TAYLOR! I'LL GET YOUR AUTOGRAPH SOME OTHER TIME!

OF ALL THINGS!



SASHAY UP, CRIMEBUSTER—PLENTY OF ROOM AN' ALL THE COMFORTS OF HOME!

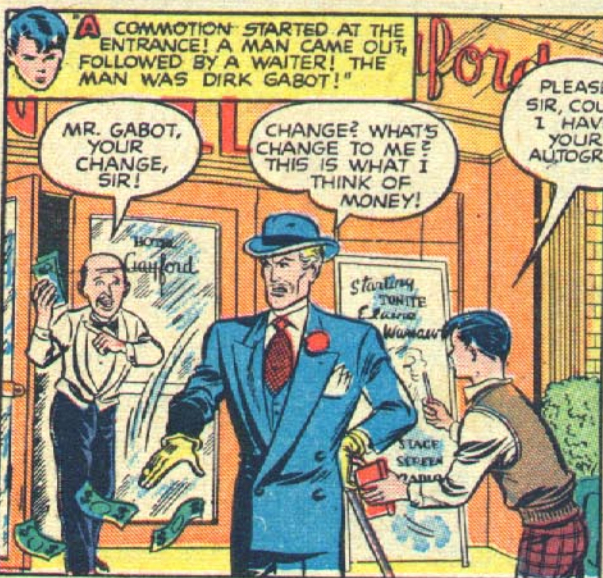
HEY, THIS IS PRETTY MUCH ALL RIGHT! YOU COULDN'T HAVE PICKED A BETTER SPOT FOR A STORY SESSION!



OKAY, HERE GOES—ABOUT FIVE YEARS AGO, I WAS STANDING OUTSIDE THE GAYFORD HOTEL, WAITING TO GET SOME VIPS' AUTOGRAPHS, JUST LIKE YOU WERE TONIGHT!

WHAT'S A VIP?

A VERY IMPORTANT PERSON, YA DOPE!



A COMMOTION STARTED AT THE ENTRANCE! A MAN CAME OUT, FOLLOWED BY A WAITER! THE MAN WAS DIRK GABOT!

MR. GABOT, YOUR CHANGE, SIR!

CHANGE? WHAT'S CHANGE TO ME? THIS IS WHAT I THINK OF MONEY!

PLEASE, SIR, COULD I HAVE YOUR AUTOGRAPH?



DON'T BOTHER ME, BOY! I'VE NO TIME FOR SUCH NONSENSE! YOU, THERE, GET ME A CAB—LIKETTY SPLIT!

YESSIR! I'LL TRY—IT'S A BAD NIGHT!



WHAT DO YOU MEAN—TRY? I'LL GIVE YOU TEN DOLLARS—NOW GET ME A CAB!!

I'LL DO THE BEST I CAN, SIR! I THINK ONE'S PULLIN' UP NOW!

HURRY—AND I'LL MAKE IT TWENTY!



NOW, CARRY ME TO IT, AND PUT ME IN—AND I'LL GIVE YOU FIFTY DOLLARS! WHAT SAY, FLUNKY?

WHAT? WHY YOU MUST BE FOOLING! YOU DON'T REALLY MEAN THAT?



I DO, I DO, YOU FOOL! CARRY ME OVER AND PUT ME IN, AND I'LL GIVE YOU—FIFTY, SIXTY—NO, ONE HUNDRED! YOU CAN USE A HUNDRED BUCKS, CAN'T YOU?

I SURE CAN! B...BUT, SIR, YOU'RE A BIG MAN! I DON'T KNOW THAT I COULD! YOU MUST BE JOKING!



"THE RADIO AUDIENCE JAMMED THE SWITCHBOARD WITH VOTES FOR HIM, AND MAIL POURED IN FOR DAYS AFTERWARD!"

THAT GABOT KID SURE WOWED 'EM! LOOK AT THIS FAN MAIL!

I' HEAR HE ALREADY HAS A HOLLYWOOD CONTRACT!



MUSIC NOTE I'LL REMEMBER THIS DAY WITH YOU!



"HE CLICKED WITH THE PUBLIC AND BECAME A STAR OVERNIGHT! HE BROKE ALL BOX-OFFICE RECORDS!"

I DON'T CARE HOW LONG I HAVE TO WAIT! I WANT TO SEE DIRK GABOT! THEY SAY HE'S WONDERFUL!



"EVERY PICTURE HE MADE WAS A HIT! PARENTS TOOK THEIR CHILDREN TO SEE AND HEAR HIM! HE BECAME AN IDOL TO ADULTS AND CHILDREN ALIKE!"

ISN'T HE WONDERFUL?

WHAT A HEAVENLY VOICE!

GEE, I WISH I COULD SING LIKE DIRK! HE'S SWELL!

BOY, CAN HE DUEL!



"BUT SUCCESS WENT TO DIRK'S HEAD! HE TOOK ALL THE CREDIT PERSONALLY, FORGETTING IT WAS THE GIFT OF HIS VOICE THAT BROUGHT HIM FAME!"

JOHN, YOU STAND IN FOR ME ON THIS SCENE! I CAN'T BE BOTHERED-AND BESIDES, I DON'T LIKE THESE ROUGH AND TUMBLE RIDING SCENES! THEY SCARE THE HECK OUT OF ME!



"HE TOOK ADVANTAGE OF HIS FAVORED POSITION AS A STAR EVERY CHANCE HE COULD!"

AREN'T YOU THE DARING HERO! WOULDN'T YOUR PUBLIC LIKE TO KNOW THAT YOU MIGHT AT LEAST STAY ON THE SET AND HELP US OUT!

HORSE RADISH! I'M GOING DOWN TO GET A COKE! AND WHAT MY PUBLIC DOESN'T KNOW IS NONE OF THEIR BUSINESS! C'MON, JANE, I WANT YOU TO JOIN ME!

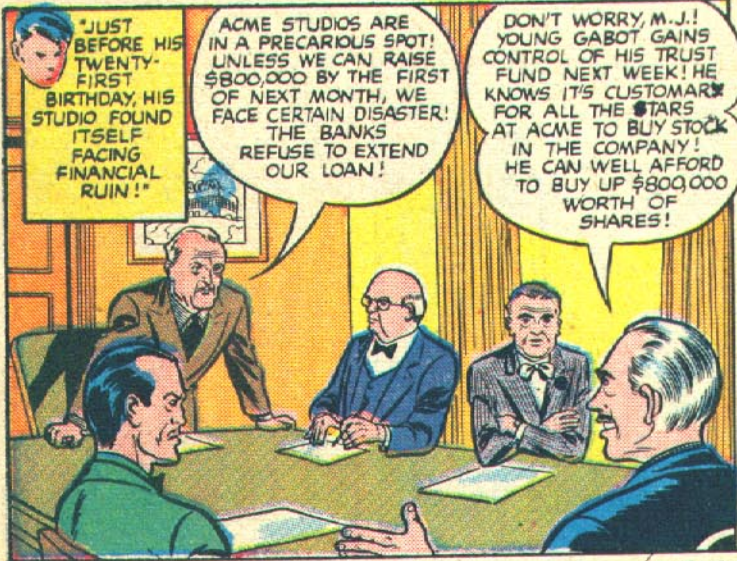


DIRK, YOU'RE SO DARING, TALKING BACK TO MR. MCCARTHY LIKE THAT! DO YOU ALWAYS TALK TO YOUR DIRECTORS LIKE THAT?

PHOOIE ON HIM! WHO DOES HE THINK HE IS, TRYING TO BOSS ME? IF I HAD MY WAY, HE'D GET THE AXE!



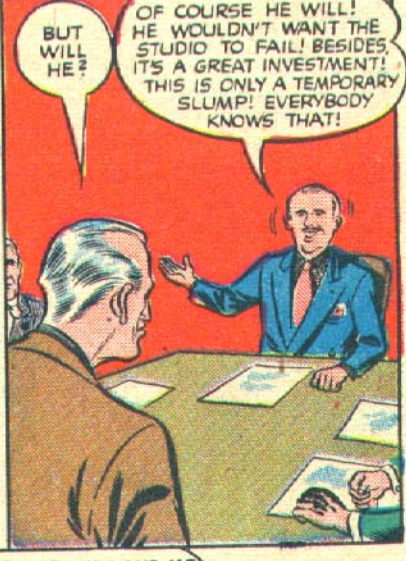
BY THAT TIME, DIRK WAS NEARLY OF LEGAL AGE! HE HAD EARNED WELL OVER TWO MILLION DOLLARS, WHICH WAS HELD IN A TRUST FUND THAT WAS TO BE HIS ON HIS TWENTY-FIRST BIRTHDAY! THE PUBLIC STILL ADORED HIM-AND THE STUDIO WAS CAREFUL TO HIDE HIS SHORT-COMINGS FROM HIS ADMIRERS!



"JUST BEFORE HIS TWENTY-FIRST BIRTHDAY, HIS STUDIO FOUND ITSELF FACING FINANCIAL RUIN!"

ACME STUDIOS ARE IN A PRECARIOUS SPOT! UNLESS WE CAN RAISE \$800,000 BY THE FIRST OF NEXT MONTH, WE FACE CERTAIN DISASTER! THE BANKS REFUSE TO EXTEND OUR LOAN!

DON'T WORRY, M.J.! YOUNG GABOT GAINS CONTROL OF HIS TRUST FUND NEXT WEEK! HE KNOWS IT'S CUSTOMAR* FOR ALL THE STARS AT ACME TO BUY STOCK IN THE COMPANY! HE CAN WELL AFFORD TO BUY UP \$800,000 WORTH OF SHARES!



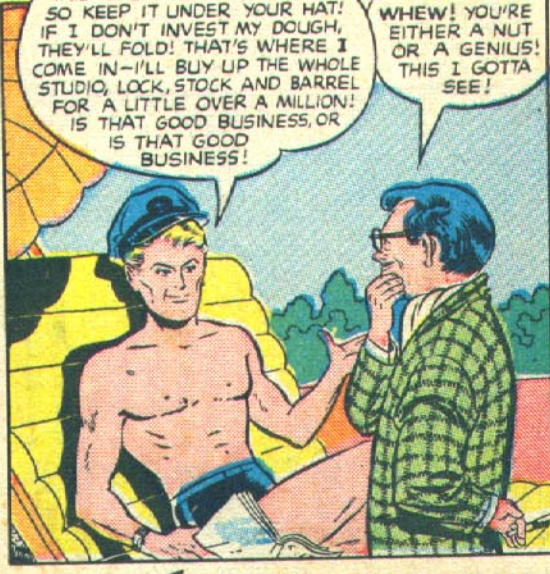
BUT WILL HE?

OF COURSE HE WILL! HE WOULDN'T WANT THE STUDIO TO FAIL! BESIDES, IT'S A GREAT INVESTMENT! THIS IS ONLY A TEMPORARY SLUMP! EVERYBODY KNOWS THAT!



HI, DIRK! I CAME TO VERIFY A RUMOR! I HEAR YOU'RE GOING TO INVEST SOME OF YOUR DOUGH IN STUDIO STOCK! YOU'LL BE A LIFESAVER—ACME REALLY NEEDS THE DOUGH!

IS THAT SO! WELL, CONFIDENTIALLY, BUNNY, I HAVE NO INTENTION OF INVESTING! DO I LOOK CRAZY?



THIS IS BETWEEN YOU AND ME, SO KEEP IT UNDER YOUR HAT! IF I DON'T INVEST MY DOUGH, THEY'LL FOLD! THAT'S WHERE I COME IN—I'LL BUY UP THE WHOLE STUDIO, LOCK, STOCK AND BARREL FOR A LITTLE OVER A MILLION! IS THAT GOOD BUSINESS, OR IS THAT GOOD BUSINESS!

WHEW! YOU'RE EITHER A NUT OR A GENIUS! THIS I GOTTA SEE!



YOU'LL SEE IT ALL RIGHT! BUT IF YOU BLAB ONE WORD OF THIS, I'LL FIX IT SO YOU'LL NEVER GET A JOB IN HOLLYWOOD AGAIN, BUNNY AMES, AND DON'T THINK I CAN'T!

DON'T BE A DOPE! FRANKLY, I'D LIKE TO SEE YOU PULL THIS DEAL...IF YOU CAN!



ACME FAILED, THANKS TO HIM! DIRK LIVED UP TO HIS THREAT! HE DIDN'T GIVE A HOOT ABOUT THE LOSSES HE INFLICTED ON THE THOUSANDS OF STUDIO EMPLOYEES!

JEEPERS! WHAT A LOUSE! BUT DID HE GET THE STUDIO? WAS HE ABLE TO BUY IT FOR HIMSELF?



HE DID—JUST THE WAY HE PREDICTED! AT TWENTY-ONE, HE OWNED ONE OF THE BIGGEST STUDIOS IN ALL OF HOLLYWOOD, BUT HE WAS JUST WARMING UP!



MY FINGERS ARE SO TIRED, I CAN HARDLY HOLD A PENCIL! THIS PACE IS INHUMAN! WHAT'S GABOT IN SUCH A RUSH FOR? SPEED NEVER MADE GOOD PICTURES!

A FULL LENGTH PICTURE TAKES A LOT OF ANIMATION! AS I GET IT, GABOT IS OUT TO COMPETE WITH NDN! HE DOESN'T WANT SPEED AS MUCH AS QUALITY!

BUT HE WANTS A LOT OF IT! HE'S GOT A GOOD START HERE! "NEEDLE IN THE HAYSTACK" IS A DANDY SCRIPT! WHAT GETS ME IS THIS OVERTIME! THE DOUGH PART IS ALL RIGHT, BUT I HAVEN'T SEEN MY KIDS FOR A WEEK! THEY'RE ASLEEP WHEN I GET HOME AND WHEN I LEAVE FOR WORK!

WHEN IS IT GONNA END? WHEN WE FALL FLAT ON OUR FACES FROM EXHAUSTION, I GUESS!

"NEEDLE IN THE HAYSTACK" HAS TO BE FINISHED BY THE THIRTIETH!

I DON'T CARE HOW YOU MANAGE—JUST DO IT!

...OF THIS MONTH? THAT'S CRAZY! YOU'RE ASKING FOR THE IMPOSSIBLE!

NOTHING'S IMPOSSIBLE! DRIVE THEM ON—PAY A BONUS FOR EVERY EXTRA FOOT THEY ANIMATE! IT'S OUR ONE CHANCE OF STEALING NDN'S THUNDER! WE HAVE TO GET OUR FULL LENGTH PICTURE OUT BEFORE NDN PUTS THEIRS OUT! THE PUBLICITY IS ALL SET! DON'T FAIL ME, IF YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOOD FOR YOU!

I CAN'T DRAW ANOTHER STROKE

I GIVE UP—RELEASE DATE OR NOT! THIS IS TOO MUCH!

A THOUSAND DOLLARS APIECE, IF YOU FINISH UP BEFORE NOON!

WE DID IT! WE DID IT! "NEEDLE IN THE HAYSTACK" IS IN THE CAN!

GREAT! FINE! I'LL GET THE PUBLICITY ROLLING! I'LL SEE YOU IN THE PROJECTING ROOM!

VARIATIONS in the HAYSTACK
ACME'S GREATEST FILM "NEEDLE in the HAYSTACK"

Hollywood Sun
FILM HISTORY MADE "NEEDLE in the HAYSTACK"

EVERY DAY around the A.A.
ACME PRODUCES SEASON'S GREATEST ANIMATED FILM "NEEDLE in the HAYSTACK"

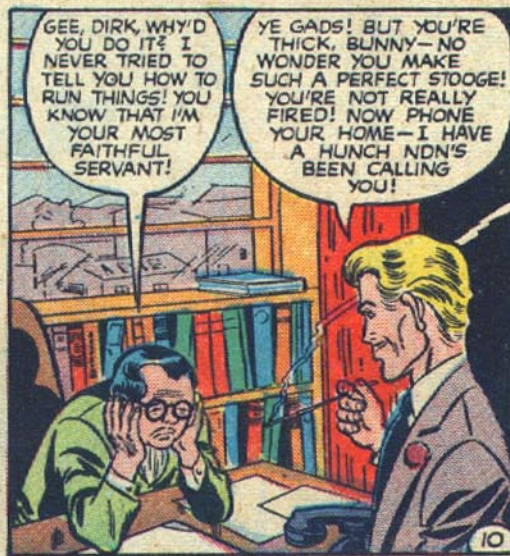
NEEDLE IN THE HAYSTACK

DON'T MISS SEEING IT, FOLKS! ACME'S GREATEST—"NEEDLE IN THE HAYSTACK"!

CALL A MEETING OF EVERYONE AT ACME! I WANT TO SPEAK TO THE WHOLE STAFF! THIS MORNING IN STUDIO SEVEN!

OKAY, DIRK!







DIRK, THIS IS AMES! THEY FIRED ME! YEAH, I HAD TO GIVE IN! BUT IT'S OKAY— THEIR PICTURE IS A MESS!



GOOD BOY! LAY LOW AND I'LL SEE YOU LATER!



HARRY, WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO? WE'VE ONLY A WEEK LEFT TO WORK IN THE PICTURE'S ONLY HALF DONE—AND THAT HALF IS TERRIBLE!



I'LL TALK TO THE BOYS, B.S.! MAYBE WE CAN WHIP IT INTO SOME KIND OF SHAPE!

WITH AMES OUT OF THE WAY, WE'RE MOVING TEN TIMES AS FAST! I THINK WE CAN JUST ABOUT MEET THE DEADLINE!

IT MAY NOT BE THE BEST PICTURE, BUT IT ISN'T TOO BAD! AT LEAST WE'LL MEET THE DATE!

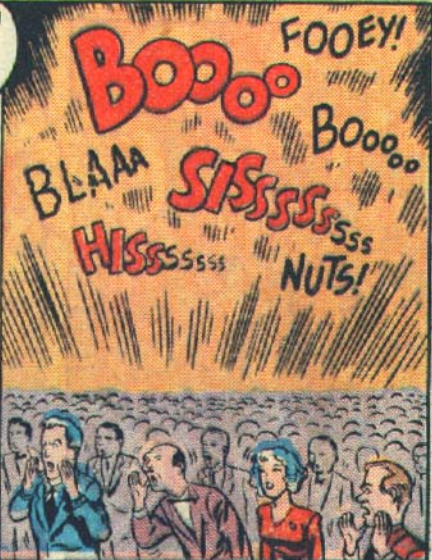


DIRK, I HAD TO COME SEE YOU! I JUST GOT A TIP THAT NON MANAGED TO PATCH "SNAP THE DRAGON" UP INTO SOME SORT OF FORM! HEAVEN KNOWS HOW! I DID ALL I COULD TO SABOTAGE IT!

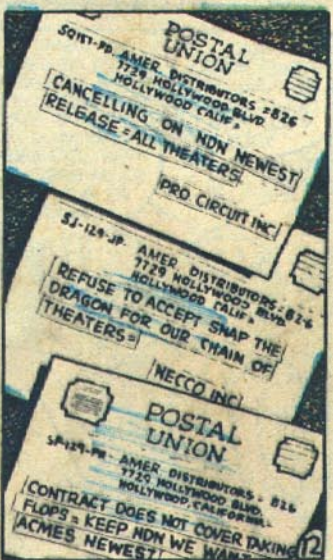
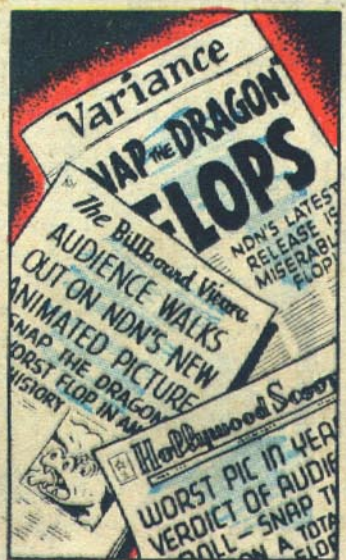


CHEER UP, BUNNY! THEY MAY GET IT RELEASED ON TIME, BUT THAT WILL BE ALL!

YOU'VE ALL BEEN GIVEN TICKETS TO THE PREMIERE OF "SNAP THE DRAGON"! YOU'RE TO BOO, HISS AND RAZZ IT FROM THE MINUTE IT GOES ON, TILL IT'S FINISHED! NOW LETS HAVE A LITTLE REHEARSAL!



FOOEY!
Boooo
BLAAA
Sisssss
Hisssssss
NUTS!





YOU LOOK HAPPY, DIRK! WHAT'S UP?

I JUST GOT WORD FROM AMERICAN DISTRIBUTORS! THEY CANCELLED THEIR CONTRACT WITH NDN, FOR THEIR FAILURE TO MEET QUALITY STANDARDS! THEY'RE WILLING TO SIGN UP WITH US—WE'VE WON!



WE HAVE ALL NDN'S TOP ARTISTS—THE RELEASE I WANTED AND NO COMPETITION! I TOLD YOU I COULD DO IT...OH, AND YOU'RE BACK WITH ACME OFFICIALLY AGAIN! I NOTIFIED THE PAPERS! I SAID YOU WEREN'T APPRECIATED AT NDN—AND THAT WE PATCHED UP OUR DIFFERENCES!



OH, I FORGOT TO TELL YOU—THERE'S A PARTY AT BOB BRENNER'S PLACE TONIGHT! YOU'RE COMING WITH ME—I ASKED HIM TO GIVE IT IN CELEBRATION!

SWELL! SHALL I LINE UP A COUPLE OF GAL'S?

NO! I'D RATHER FREE LANCE!



WHO'S THAT GIRL OVER THERE—THE ONE IN YELLOW!

DON'T YOU KNOW? SHE WORKS FOR YOU! THAT'S PAT ROME! SHE'S A BIT PLAYER! NOT MUCH ON ACTING TALENT, BUT OH, BOY...



WORKS FOR ME, EH? NOW WHAT COULD BE SWEETER? BRING HER OVER—I WANT TO MEET HER!



EXCUSE ME, HARRY! C'MON, PAT, THE BIG BOSS, DIRK GABOT, WOULD LIKE TO MEET YOU!

HOW NICE! DO BRING HIM OVER!



I...I'M AFRAID SHE DIDN'T QUITE UNDERSTAND! SHE SAID SHE'D LIKE TO MEET YOU, IF YOU'D COME OVER!

SHE WHAT? DOESN'T SHE KNOW WHO I AM? OH, WELL, I'LL GO OVER!



ERR...MISS ROME, MAY I PRESENT...

OH, MR. AMES... DO WAIT! I'LL BE BACK THE MINUTE THIS DANCE IS OVER!



WHY THAT LITTLE @!!!X!! I'LL SHOW HER WHO'S BOSS! AMES, HAVE THAT GIRL SENT TO MY OFFICE FIRST THING IN THE MORNING!

YES, SURE! I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT, DIRK!



CALLING MISS ROME REPORT TO MR GABOT'S OFFICE!

WHY, PAT! THAT'S YOU! WHAT DOES HE WANT TO SEE YOU ABOUT, DO YOU KNOW?

I THINK I DO! WE WERE AT BRENNER'S PARTY LAST NIGHT! HE'S ANNOYED WITH ME, BECAUSE I DIDN'T SWOON AT THE SIGHT OF HIM!



I'D LIKE TO KNOW WHY YOU SNUBBED ME LAST NIGHT, MISS ROME! WHY DIDN'T YOU WANT TO MEET ME?

GOODNESS! IT WASN'T THAT AT ALL! IT'S REALLY YOUR FAULT FOR BEING SO SENSITIVE! YOU COULD HAVE WAITED! I WAS DANCING—IT WOULD HAVE BEEN RUDE TO STOP!



RUDE TO WHOM—YOUR PARTNER? WHO'S MORE IMPORTANT, HE OR I? WE'LL FORGET THAT NOW! HOW ABOUT DINNER TONIGHT?

GEE, I'M SORRY! I'D LOVE TO, BUT I HAVE A PREVIOUS ENGAGEMENT!



YOU WHAT? BREAK IT! I WANT YOU TO GO OUT WITH ME! THAT'S AN ORDER! YOU CAN TAKE YOUR CHOICE—EITHER YOU GO OUT WITH ME TONIGHT, OR...WELL, YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN!

I'M SORRY, BUT I REALLY CAN'T BREAK MY DATE, SO I GUESS I'M FIRED! GOOD MORNING, MR. GABOT!



THAT ROME GIRL—I FIRED HER! SHE REFUSED TO BREAK HER DATE FOR A CHANCE TO GO OUT WITH ME, HER BOSS!

YEAH, I KNOW! SHE TOLD ME! MAYBE SHE WAS JUST PLAYING HARD TO GET! SHE'S PROBABLY REALLY NUTS ABOUT YOU!



HEY, YOU KNOW? THAT COULD BE—DO YOU REALLY THINK SO? HIRE HER BACK AT TWICE HER SALARY! MAYBE I'VE GOT HER FIGURED ALL WRONG! GO AHEAD, WILL YA? TELL HER BEFORE SHE LEAVES THE LOT!

DIRK, OLD BOY! I THINK YOU'RE FALLING FOR THE DAME! IT'S HARD TO IMAGINE, BUT I REALLY THINK YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH HER!



WELL, WHAT DO YOU KNOW? I FINALLY HAVE A DATE WITH PAT TONIGHT? FUNNY HOW THAT GIRL FASCINATES ME! GET MY ROADSTER OUT!

WATCH YOUR STEP, DIRK—YOU SEEM TO BE FALLING TOO HARD!

DG
How does it feel being fired back at times? What you were getting? When can I have a date with you?
Dirk Gabot





FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE, DIRK, STOP BROODING ABOUT THAT GIRL! EVER SINCE YOU'VE HAD THAT DATE WITH HER, YOU'VE BEEN ACTING BALMY! YOUR PICTURES ARE WAY BEHIND SCHEDULE! YOU HAVEN'T EVEN READ THE SCRIPT FOR THE NEW ANIMATED PICTURE! ACME WILL BE RUINED IF YOU DON'T SNAP OUT OF IT!



TO HECK WITH THE STUDIO! ALL I CAN THINK OF IS PAT! I CAN'T GET HER OUT OF MY MIND! I'VE TRIED EVERYTHING—JEWELRY, FLOWERS, LETTERS, TELEGRAMS... BUT SHE WON'T EVEN ANSWER ME! YOU HAVE TO HELP ME BUNNY! MAKE HER GIVE ME ANOTHER CHANCE!

OKAY, OKAY, I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO!



I FINALLY TALKED HER INTO A DATE, BUT DON'T THINK IT WAS EASY! WHAT'S MORE, SHE SAID IF YOU TRY TO BULLY OR BRIBE HER, IT WILL BE THE LAST TIME SHE'LL SEE YOU! SHE'S NO ORDINARY GIRL, DIRK!

YOU'RE TELLING ME! SHE'S TERRIFIC! SHE'S THE ONLY GIRL IN THE WORLD FOR ME!



THIS TIME I'LL SHOW HER! MAKE RESERVATIONS AT THE ROCOMBO—THE BEST OF EVERYTHING... SPECIAL FLOWERS... AND HAVE THE ENTIRE STUDIO ORCHESTRA THERE! I WANT LOTS OF ROMANTIC STRAUSSSES, TSCHAIKOWSKY'S, LOTS OF WALTZES!

NO, DIRK, THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT SHE DOESN'T WANT! SHE LIKES SIMPLE THINGS—SHE TOLD ME!



DIRK! WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT? MR. AMES SAID IT WOULD BE A NICE, QUIET DINNER!

IT'S ALL IN YOUR HONOR, PAT DEAR! I HAD THE ORCHIDS FLOWN FROM SOUTH AMERICA AND THE ORCHESTRA—THAT'S ACME'S OWN MUSIC MEN PLAYING JUST FOR YOU! WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE SONG?



I HAVE NONE! EVERYONE'S STARING AT US! THIS IS EMBARRASSING! I FEEL SO CONSPICUOUS! WHY DID YOU DO IT?

HAVE YOU NO ROMANCE IN YOUR SOUL! I'M SHOWING YOU HOW I DO THINGS—NO PIKER STUFF FOR ME! I'M A BIG SHOT AND I DO THINGS IN A BIG WAY!



THIS IS JUST A SAMPLE, HONEY! MARRY ME AND YOU'LL HAVE ALL OF HOLLYWOOD COW-TOWING TO YOU! LET'S BREAK THE NEWS NOW!

LET'S SETTLE THIS RIGHT NOW, DIRK! YOUR IDEA OF MARRIAGE ISN'T MINE! I WANT TO MARRY FOR LOVE—NOT FOR FAME OR MONEY!



AND WHAT'S MORE, I HAVE NO INTENTION OF MARRYING YOU! AND IF YOU PERSIST ON THAT DISTASTEFUL TOPIC, I'LL SIMPLY HAVE TO WALK OUT ON YOU—JUST AS I DID THE LAST TIME!

OH, NO YOU DON'T—NOT THIS TIME! I WON'T LET YOU! NOW STAY PUT! YOU'RE GOING TO LISTEN TO ME!



GOOD NIGHT, MR. GABOT!

SLAP



"DIRK WOUND UP IN THE ALCOHOLIC WARD AT BELLEVUE, WHERE HE WAS GIVEN THE CURE!"

YOU'RE DISCHARGED, GABOT! SEE THAT YOU LAY OFF THE BOOZE, OR YOU'LL WIND UP IN PSYCHO FOR KEEPS! GOT SOME MONEY TO START ON? I CAN LET YOU HAVE A TEN SPOT TILL YOU GET STARTED!

I DON'T NEED YOUR MONEY—I'VE GOT MILLIONS!

"WHEN HE REALIZED HOW BROKE HE WAS, HE DECIDED TO TRY FOR A COME-BACK SINGING IN A NIGHT CLUB!"

YOU FOLKS ALL REMEMBER DIRK GABOT, THE BOY WITH THE GOLDEN VOICE? BEGINNING TONIGHT, WE HAVE THE GOOD FORTUNE OF HIS PRESENCE! SINCE THE LENGTH OF HIS ENGAGEMENT DEPENDS ON YOU, I'M SURE IT WILL A LONG ONE!

Club Seventeen

"DIRK WASN'T WORRIED! HE WAS SURE HE STILL HAD ONE THING—THE GREAT GIFT, THE ACE IN THE HOLE—HIS VOICE!"

WHAT A VOICE...UGH! CHUCK THE BUM OUT!

THAT AIN'T DIRK GABOT! NOT EVEN A GOOD IMITATION!

I LOVE YOU

Boo

FAKE

THE BOOZE RUINED HIS THROAT! THAT WAS THE END OF DIRK GABOT'S PROFESSIONAL CAREER! HE FINALLY ENDED UP IN AN ACTORS' CHARITY HOME, WHERE HE DIED TWO YEARS LATER, A BROKEN AND DEFEATED FAILURE!

IF HE HADN'T BEEN SO GREEDY, SO DETERMINED TO HAVE EVERYTHING HIS WAY, HE MIGHT BE SINGING YET! IT WAS A HEAVENLY GIFT THAT MADE HIM GREAT! HE HAD NO RIGHT TO BE CONCEITED!

JEEPERS! WHAT A STORY!

MOVING VAN

HE CERTAINLY PROVES THE POINT YOU WERE TRYING TO MAKE, C.B.!

YEAH, I GUESS FATE CATCHES UP WITH GUYS WHO DON'T USE A GREAT TALENT SO THAT IT DOES SOME REAL GOOD!

HEY, IN THERE!!

PILE OUT, KIDS! WE HAVE TO GET ROLLING! I GOTTA PICK UP A LOAD!

JUMPIN' JOE! IT'S PAST TEN O'CLOCK! WE'D BETTER GET HOME! I'LL GET THE DICKENS!

BE SURE YOU DIDN'T LEAVE ANYTHING IN BACK! WE'RE HEADED FOR THE COAST—IT'S A LONG TRIP!

I HAVE EVERYTHING!

ME, TOO!

OOPS! WHERE'S SQUEEKS?

MOVING VAN

WHEW! WAS THAT A CLOSE CALL! NEXT TIME YOU DECIDE TO SNOOZE, SQUEEKS, DON'T DO IT IN A LONG DISTANCE MOVING VAN!

GEE, THAT'S OUR TOUGH LUCK! I'M KINDA SORRY YOU FOUND 'IM! WE'D HAVE HAD A SWELL MASCOT FOR US!

Zzz

The END

CRIMEBUSTER

YOU LOUSY COPPER!! YOU KILLED MY ROCKY!! YOU'LL GET YOURS FOR THIS!!

LET'S GO, SISTER—YOU'RE COMING TO THE STATION HOUSE! YOU CAN THROW ALL THE THREATS YOU WANT THERE!

Story by CHARLES BIRO

SINCE NO ONE IS PERFECT, I TAKE THE LIBERTY OF PERMITTING A HERO IN THIS STORY TO MAKE A NEAR FATAL MISTAKE, ALTHOUGH IT IS NOT CUSTOMARY FOR HEROES TO DO SUCH THINGS!
THE POLICE ARE ONLY HUMAN! SOMETIMES THE METHODS THAT ARE USED TO APPREHEND A CRIMINAL MAY NOT APPEAR TO BE ENTIRELY FAIR BY THE HORATIO ALGER STANDARDS, BUT SOMETIMES FIRE CAN BEST BE FOUGHT WITH FIRE! POLICEMEN AT TIMES MUST BE DETERMINED, DAUNTLESS, AND ALMOST BRUTAL IN THEIR METHODS, IN ORDER TO NEUTRALIZE THE DETESTABLE VICIOUSNESS OF A HEARTLESS CRIMINAL!
MY HERO IS A COP—HE'S A HUMAN BEING! HE'S JUST AS EMOTIONAL IN HIS UNIFORM AS HE IS WHEN OUT OF IT! HE'S JUST AS SUSCEPTIBLE TO LOVE, HATE, GENEROSITY OR GREED AS ANYONE ELSE—AND IS ENTITLED TO THE SAME MISTAKES, ALTHOUGH THE PRICE HE PAYS FOR THEM MAY BE MANY TIMES GREATER—SOMETIMES IT'S DEATH!

Charles Biro

JUST LEAVE THE KEY IN IT, MISTER! I'LL PARK IT FOR YOU!

WHO ASKED YA TO OPEN THE DOOR, YA STUPE?

I... I'M SORRY, SIR! I THOUGHT YOU WERE COMING IN!

GET OUT OF HERE! GO PEDDLE YOUR PAPERS! BEAT IT!

YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE ACTED SO TOUGH, HONEY! HE MAY START WONDERING!

IF HE DOES, IT'S HIS FUNERAL! ARE YOU SURE YOU HAVE IT ALL STRAIGHT, MARGIE? WE CAN'T AFFORD A SLIP-UP! LET'S GO OVER IT AGAIN!

PULL UP A LITTLE, STAN, YOU'RE TOO CLOSE TO THE DOOR!

OKAY—HOW'S THIS?

I'LL BE IN MY CASHIER'S BOOTH! AT EXACTLY ONE THIRTY THE LIGHTS GO OUT! YOU COME OVER AND GRAB THE NIGHT'S RECEIPTS FROM ME! LATER, WHEN THE COPS COME, I SAY I CAN IDENTIFY THE ROBBER, AND AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS, I PICK OUT BOB LOGAN'S PICTURE AND SAY IT WAS HIM!



BUT ONE THING BOTHERS ME—WHAT DOES LOGAN LOOK LIKE, AND WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO PIN THIS STICK-UP ON HIM? YOU SURE MUST HATE THE GUY, ROCKY!



THAT'S MY BUSINESS! ALL YOU HAVE TO KNOW IS HIS NAME—WHEN YOU SEE THAT, YOU FINGER IT! IF IT'LL HELP ANY, HE'S GOT REAL BUSHY EYEBROWS AND POCK MARKS ON HIS CHEEKS! IF THIS GOES OFF OKAY, I'LL DO SOMETHING REAL NICE FOR YOU!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO GIVE ME NOTHING TO DO THINGS FOR YOU, ROCKY DARLING! YOU KNOW I'D DO ANYTHING FOR YOU!

YOU CAN PROVE THAT TONIGHT, SWEETIE! SEE THAT THIS STICK-UP GOES OFF GOOD!



HEY, WAKE UP, MARGIE! THAT WAS A TWENTY I GAVE YOU—NOT A TEN!

SORRY, CHARLIE—HERE! MISTAKES WILL HAPPEN! WHAT TIME IS IT?



WHAT'S EATING YOU TONIGHT, MARGIE—YOU ACT AS NERVOUS AS A CAT!

IT'S NOTHING REALLY, SYLVIA! I..I HAD A QUARREL WITH THE BOY FRIEND JUST BEFORE I CAME TO WORK—NOTHING SERIOUS! WE'LL PATCH IT UP, BUT IT HAS ME A LITTLE JUMPY!



♪ MY TRUE LOVE WAS TRUE... ♪



♪ THEY SAID SOME DAY YOU'LL... ♪

THE LIGHTS!! TURN THE LIGHTS ON!!



KEEP YOUR SEATS, EVERYBODY!

PLEASE BE CALM!

STAY SEATED!



QUIET, EVERYONE—NO NEED TO BE ALARMED! IT'S JUST A SHORT CIRCUIT! EVERYONE PLEASE KEEP YOUR SEATS! THE LIGHTS WILL BE ON AGAIN IN A MOMENT!

OH, ONLY A SHORT CIRCUIT!









WHEN THESE RATTY GUNMEN SEE HOW FAST OUR POLICE FORCE CRACKS DOWN ON THEM, THEY'LL CLEAR OUT FAST—THE CASE IS ALL YOURS, McCLAIN—AND GOOD LUCK!

THANKS, LOOVER! I WON'T LET YOU DOWN!



HI, BRONSON—SEND OUT A RADIO BROADCAST TO PICK UP BOB "FUZZY" LOGAN! MAKE IT A CITY-WIDE ALARM! I'LL GIVE YOU THE DETAILS LATER!

BOB "FUZZY" LOGAN?



YOU CAN'T MEAN LOGAN, LIEUTENANT! I SENT OUT AN ALARM FOR HIM A WEEK AGO—WAIT A SEC, I'LL SHOW YOU THE RECORD!



HERE WE ARE! I PUT OUT A CALL FOR HIM LAST MONDAY AT NINE-FIFTEEN ON A BOOK-MAKING CHARGE! HE WAS PICKED UP TUESDAY NIGHT AT ELEVEN P.M. IN JERSEY CITY, WHERE HE'S STILL BEING HELD FOR EXTRADITION!



OH, NO! HOW COULD THAT BE? SHE IDENTIFIED HIM SO POSITIVELY! THIS IS ONE HECK OF A MESS! THANKS, BRONSON—HEY, WAIT A MINUTE! MAYBE HE GOT OUT ON BAIL!

NO, LIEUTENANT—HE'S STILL IN JAIL IN JERSEY CITY! HE WAS HELD WITHOUT BAIL!



LOOK, MARGIE, THERE'S A SLIP-UP SOMEWHERE! BOB LOGAN CAN'T BE OUR MAN—HE IS, AND WAS IN JAIL WHEN THE STICK-UP WAS GOING ON! YOU IDENTIFIED THE WRONG MAN!



NO, I DIDN'T! I SWEAR HE WAS THE ONE—REALLY!

UHM...LOOK, YOU'RE TIRED—YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING AT THOSE PICTURES FOR HOURS! MAYBE A NIGHT'S SLEEP WILL HELP YOU TO REMEMBER SOME LITTLE DETAIL THAT WILL HELP! I'LL TAKE YOU HOME NOW!



COME IN AND HAVE SOME COFFEE BEFORE YOU GO, LIEUTENANT!

THANKS, MARGIE, I'D KIND OF LIKE THAT—AND HOW ABOUT CALLING ME RANDY. INSTEAD OF THIS LIEUTENANT STUFF? YOU'LL BE SEEING A LOT OF ME, SINCE I'LL NEED YOUR HELP ON THIS CASE! WE MIGHT AS WELL BE FRIENDLY!



OF COURSE, RANDY! I HOPE I WILL BE A HELP TO YOU! I'D LOVE TO SEE YOU GET THAT PROMOTION—ESPECIALLY IF I'M ABLE TO HELP...ONLY, I FEEL AWFUL ABOUT THE WAY THINGS ARE TURNING OUT—BUT I'M STILL SO SURE HE'S THE MAN!

HE CAN'T BE—NOT UNLESS LOGAN HAS A TWIN—AND I'M SURE HE HASN'T!



DON'T LAUGH AT ME WHEN I TELL YOU THIS, MARGIE—I'M FALLING FOR YOU!—IN FACT, I'VE FALLEN! WHEN I CRACK THIS CASE AND GET THAT PROMOTION, I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU...

WHAT IS IT, RANDY DARLING? YOU SEE, I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU, TOO, I GUESS!



YOU HAVE? OH, MARGIE, THAT'S TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE—THAT SOMETHING I WANTED TO ASK YOU WAS "WILL YOU MARRY ME"? BUT I WAS AFRAID YOU'D TURN ME DOWN! HOW ABOUT IT?

LET'S THINK ABOUT IT SOME MORE! IN THE MEANTIME, YOU'D BETTER RUN ALONG! I'VE GOT TO GET SOME SLEEP!



MARGIE...WHAT A PRETTY NAME...AND WHAT A SUPER GIRL—LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT! I NEVER THOUGHT IT COULD HAPPEN TO ME... FUNNY, ABOUT HER BEING SO SURE IT WAS LOGAN! COULD SHE BE WRONG?



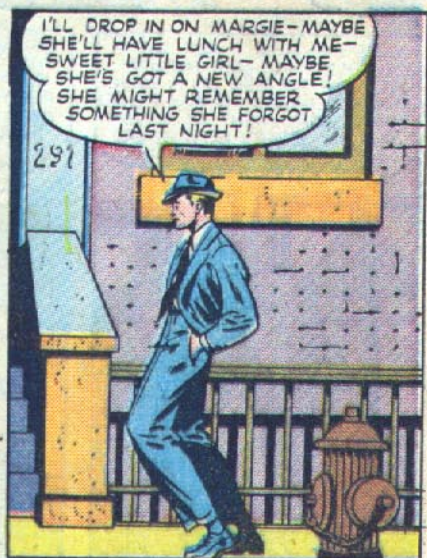
SHE SWEARS IT WAS LOGAN—BUT LOGAN'S IN JAIL! SHE'S TOO SMART TO MAKE A MISTAKE LIKE THAT! IT JUST DOESN'T ADD UP!

HEY, JOE! ANOTHER SHOT!



YOU BETTER TAKE IT EASY, MCCLAIN! THIS DAYTIME DRINKIN' IS BAD FOR YOU—YOU'VE BEEN TALKIN' TO YOURSELF, NO KIDDIN'!

AW, I GOT PROBLEMS, JOE! I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT, THOUGH—I FEEL THOSE TWO DRINKS PLENTY!



I'LL DROP IN ON MARGIE—MAYBE SHE'LL HAVE LUNCH WITH ME—SWEET LITTLE GIRL—MAYBE SHE'S GOT A NEW ANGLE! SHE MIGHT REMEMBER SOMETHING SHE FORGOT LAST NIGHT!



A FINE JAM YOU NEARLY GOT ME INTO! WHY DIDN'T YOU FIND OUT WHERE THIS LOGAN CHARACTER WAS, BEFORE YOU HAD ME IDENTIFY HIM? NOW I HAVE THIS MCCLAIN GUY PESTERING ME!

AW, SUGAR, HOW WAS I TO KNOW LOGAN WAS IN THE CLINK? THE LAST I HEARD, HE WAS ON THE LOOSE! HERE, HAVE A DRINK AN' FORGET IT!



AND WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO ABOUT THIS CORNY DICK THAT HAS A CRUSH ON ME?

STRING 'IM ALONG, HONEY! KEEP GIVING HIM THE BUM STEERS, JUST SO HE LAYS OFF US! HA, HA, WHAT A SITUATION—A DICK FALLING FOR THE GIRL FRIEND OF THE GUY HE'S AFTER! HA, HA, HA!



HA! HA! HA! HA!

MARGIE SURE HAS NOISY NEIGHBORS!



THAT NOISE IS FROM HER APARTMENT! SOUNDS LIKE A PARTY!



SHHH...

WHO IS IT?



IT'S ME, RANDY McCLAIN—I TOLD YOU I'D COME UP TO SEE YOU TODAY!

OH, GOODNESS, RANDY, I'M RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF MY BATH! CAN'T YOU COME BACK IN ER...TEN OR TWENTY MINUTES?



YOU MUST LIKE COMPANY WHILE YOU'RE TAKING YOUR BATH! SOUNDS MORE LIKE YOU'RE HAVING A PARTY TO ME!

RANDY! HOW DARE YOU SUGGEST THAT I'M LYING!



WHAT ABOUT ALL THE VOICES I HEARD?

IT MUST HAVE BEEN THE RADIO! I HAD IT TURNED ON—NOW PLEASE GIVE ME TIME TO GET DRESSED!



THANK HEAVENS HE'S GOING DOWNSTAIRS! YOU'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE HE GETS BACK!

YEAH—ONLY WHAT IF HE'S WAITING ON THE STAIRS—OR OUTSIDE?



I'VE GOT IT! WE CAN DUCK OUT THIS WINDOW AND UP THE FIRE ESCAPE! WHEN MARGIE LETS HIM IN THE APARTMENT, WE CAN SNEAK DOWN THE STAIRS FROM THE ROOF, AND OUT!

SWELL!



SO LONG, SWEETIE—PLAY ALONG WITH THE GUY AS LONG AS YOU CAN!



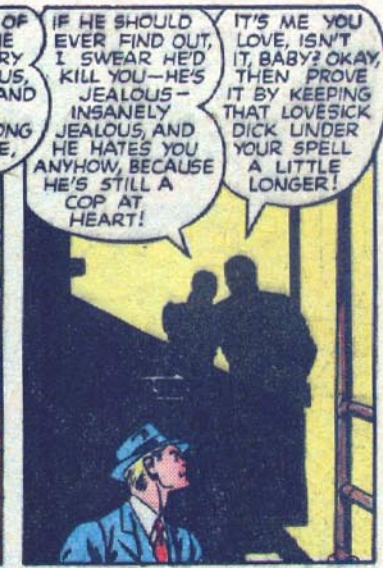
HELLO, RANDY DAPLING—I'M AWFULLY SORRY YOU HAD TO WAIT! YOU SHOULD HAVE TOLD ME WHEN TO EXPECT YOU!

YEAH, SURE, SO YOU WOULDN'T BE CAUGHT! DO YOU GENERALLY DRINK THREE HIGHBALLS AT ONCE, AND SMOKE TWO CIGARETTES AND A CIGAR ALL AT ONCE?











...I'LL SCRATCH YOUR EYES OUT, YOU OHHH...

LOOK OUT MARGIE!!



BANG!
BANG!
BANG!



THEY'RE ALL DEAD! I'LL CALL HEADQUARTERS! OH, OH, I'M NOT A COP—I'M NOT ON THE FORCE ANY MORE—THAT MAKES IT MURDER!! I MURDERED THEM!



HIYA, McClain! LOOVER'S NOT IN! YOU LOOK KIND OF DOWN IN THE MOUTH—CAN I HELP? WHAT'S WRONG?

WRONG, HA—THAT'S A HOT ONE! IT'S WORSE THAN WRONG, CRIMEBUSTER! I'M TURNING MYSELF IN FOR MURDER!



WHO'S KIDDING WHO? WHAT DO YOU MEAN, MURDER?

I JUST SHOT IT OUT WITH TWO CHEAP GUNMEN! I KILLED THEM BOTH, AND A GIRL WITH THEM ALSO GOT KILLED IN THE CROSSFIRE!



BUT McCLAIN, SHOOTING IT OUT WITH CROOKS IS YOUR JOB! YOU DESERVE A MEDAL FOR CLEANING THEM OUT! WHO WERE THEY?

BUT YOU FORGET—I RESIGNED—THAT'S WHY I QUIT THE FORCE YESTERDAY, BECAUSE I PURPOSELY FAILED TO TURN THE SAME MUGS IN—EVEN THOUGH I KNEW THEY HAD COMMITTED MURDER AND ROBBERY!



IT ALL STARTED WITH A GIRL CALLED MARGIE! I FELL FOR HER SO HARD THAT I LET THOSE KILLERS GO, FOR HER SAKE—TO PROTECT HER! I THOUGHT SHE LOVED ME AND I LOVED HER SO MUCH, I DELIBERATELY NEGLECTED MY DUTY! THEN, THIS AFTERNOON I DISCOVERED THAT SHE WAS PLAYING ME FOR A SUCKER AND THAT SHE REALLY LOVED THAT LOW-DOWN KILLER, ROCKY LEEDS!



TELL ME THIS, McCLAIN, DID YOU KILL HIM OUT OF JEALOUSY? DID YOU FIRE FOR REVENGE, WHEN YOU LEARNED THE TRUTH? THAT'S WHAT IS IMPORTANT!

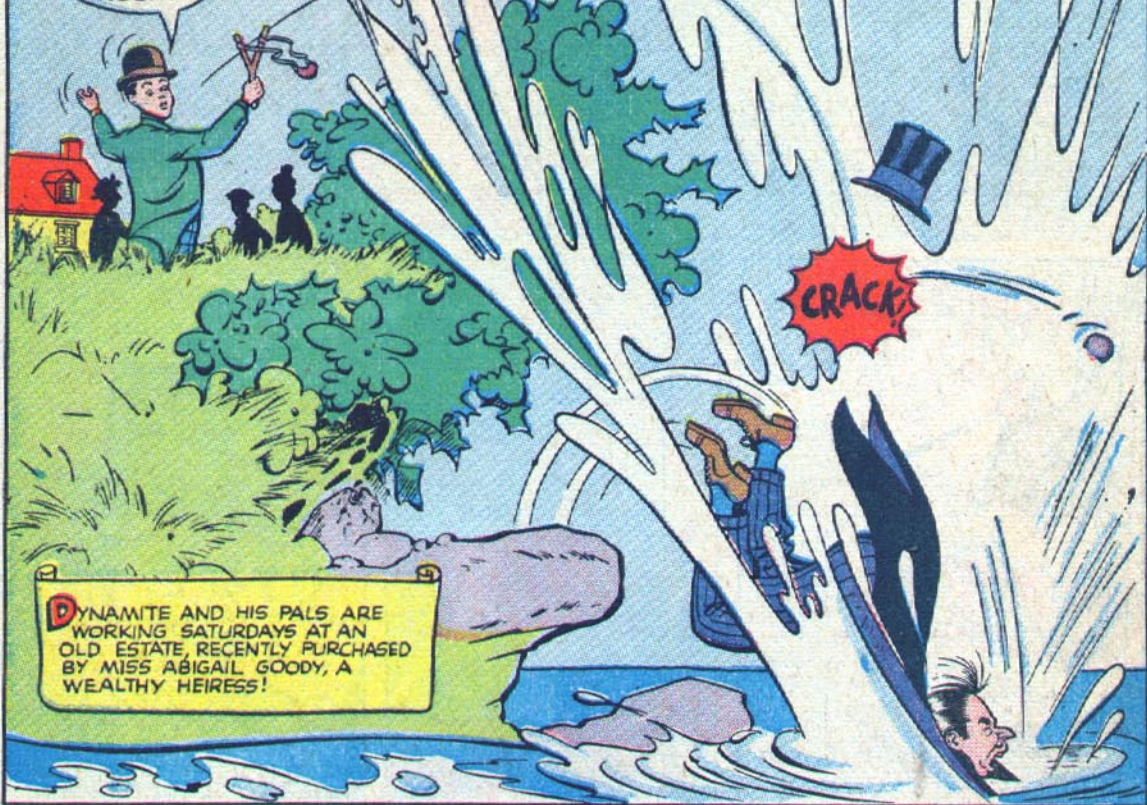
I DON'T KNOW, BUT I'LL TELL YOU THIS, CRIMEBUSTER—WHEN I HEARD THEM TALKING AND HEARD HER SAY SHE LOVED HIM, I SAW RED—I WENT CRAZY!



Little

DYNAMITE

GOLLY!
WHAT A
BIG SPLASH
FOR SUCH A
LITTLE
ROCK!



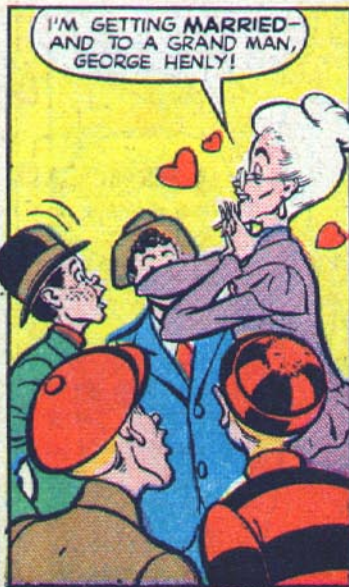
DYNAMITE AND HIS PALS ARE WORKING SATURDAYS AT AN OLD ESTATE, RECENTLY PURCHASED BY MISS ABIGAIL GOODY, A WEALTHY HEIRESS!

HERE WE ARE, MISS GOODY, ALL READY TO GO TO WORK!

OH, BOYS!
I HAVE
WONDERFUL
NEWS FOR
YOU!



I'M GETTING MARRIED—
AND TO A GRAND MAN,
GEORGE HENLY!



...SINCE
WE WON'T
LIVE HERE, I'VE
SIGNED THE PLACE
OVER TO BE A
FREE COUNTRY
CLUB, FOR CITY
BOYS LIKE
YOU!

H'RAY!!

YIPPEE!!





WHAT A SWELL IDEA—A FREE COUNTRY CLUB FOR KIDS LIKE US!

IT'S GOT EVERYTHING—WOODS, WATER, AND PLENTY OF OPEN SPACE FOR ALL KINDS OF SPORTS!



SHALL WE FINISH TACKLING THE TAP PAPER ON THE ROOF, MISS GOODY?

YES! IT WILL STOP THE LEAKS UNTIL THE MATERIAL FOR A NEW ROOF ARRIVES!



GEORGE IS AROUND THE GROUNDS SOMEWHERE! DID YOU BOYS SEE HIM?

NO! WE HAVEN'T NOTICED ANYONE AROUND THE PLACE!



I'M ANXIOUS TO HAVE YOU BOYS MEET GEORGE! HE'S VERY FOND OF YOUNG PEOPLE...IN FACT, I WOULDN'T MARRY ANY MAN WHO WASN'T!

IF SHE ONLY KNEW HOW I HATE KIDS—THE OLD WITCH!



I'LL HAVE TO PRETEND TO LIKE THE BRATS, UNTIL I MARRY THE OLD GIRL AND GET CONTROL OF HER MONEY!



OH, THERE YOU ARE, GEORGE DEAR!

HELLO, DARLING! HAVE THE BOYS ARRIVED YET?



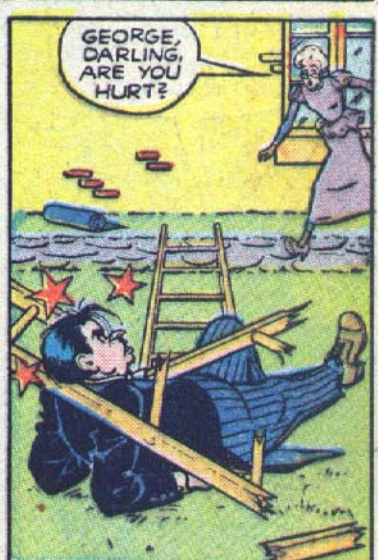
YES, THEY'RE UP ON THE ROOF FIXING THE LEAKS!

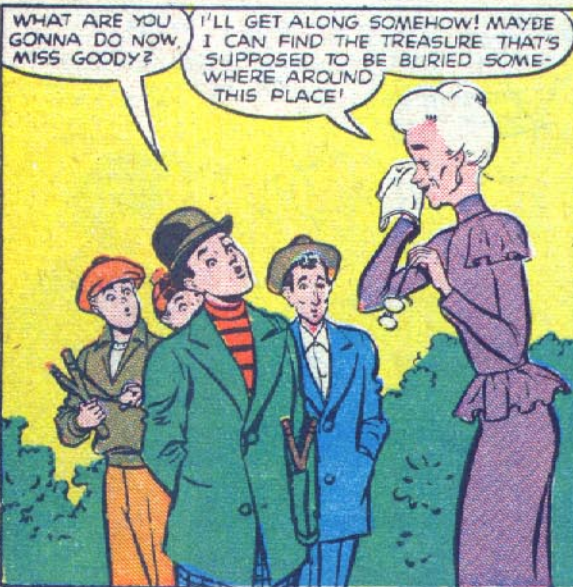
SPLENDID! I'LL GO RIGHT UP! YOU KNOW HOW CRAZY I AM ABOUT KIDS!



I'M SO GLAD GEORGE IS FOND OF YOUNGSTERS! IT SHOWS WHAT A FINE MAN HE IS!

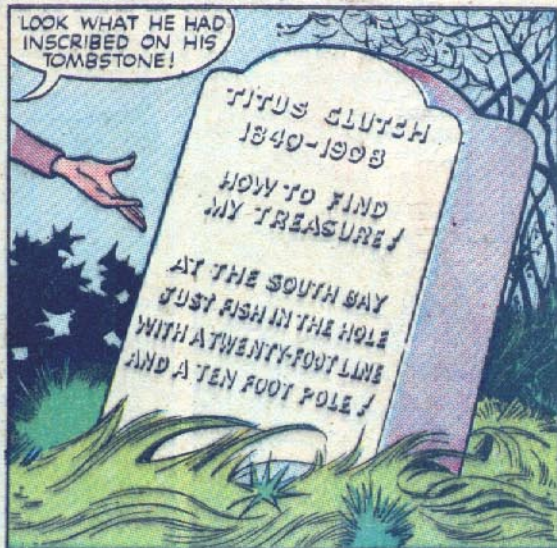
★☆☆#!! THOSE CLUMSY NITWITS!







YEARS AGO, THIS ESTATE WAS OWNED BY A VERY WEALTHY, BUT ECCENTRIC MAN, NAMED TITUS CLUTCH!



LOOK WHAT HE HAD INSCRIBED ON HIS TOMBSTONE!

TITUS CLUTCH
1840-1908
HOW TO FIND MY TREASURE!
AT THE SOUTH BAY
JUST FISH IN THE HOLE
WITH A TWENTY-FOOT LINE
AND A TEN FOOT POLE!



GOSH! ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS GO DOWN TO THE SOUTH BAY AND FISH FOR THE TREASURE, LIKE HE SAID!

I WISH IT WAS THAT SIMPLE, DYNAMITE!



FOR THE LAST FORTY YEARS, PEOPLE HAVE FISHED IN THE SOUTH BAY FOR THAT TREASURE! DIVERS WERE SENT DOWN AND THE WHOLE BAY WAS DREDGED, BUT NOTHING WAS EVER FOUND!



THEN THE WHOLE THING MUST BE A LIE!

NO, I DON'T THINK SO, DYNAMITE! I LOOKED UP THE HISTORY OF TITUS CLUTCH... HE WAS AN ODD, BUT HONEST MAN!



I BELIEVE THE POEM IS A KEY TO THE HIDING PLACE OF THE TREASURE—IF A PERSON COULD ONLY FIGURE OUT ITS REAL MEANING!

AT THE SOUTH BAY
JUST FISH IN THE HOLE
WITH A TWENTY FOOT LINE
AND A TEN FOOT POLE!



I AIN'T NO GOOD AT SOLVING RIDDLES, BUT HERE'S A FISHIN' POLE—IF THAT WILL HELP!

THANKS, BARNEY!



THE OLD BOY CERTAINLY HAD A BIG BAY WINDOW!

AT THE SOUTH BAY
JUST FISH IN THE HOLE
WITH A TWENTY FOOT LINE
AND A TEN FOOT POLE!

BAY WINDOW...
...AT THE SOUTH BAY... WINDOW!
MAYBE THAT'S WHAT THE POEM REALLY MEANS!

